

CLARK COUNTY CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 7, 2004

6:30 – 8:30 PM

LaCenter Community Center

1004 East 4th Street

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robbie Agard, Bill Owen, Susan Rasmussen, Judy Schramm Don Steinke, Art Stubbs, and Virginia vanBreeman

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Anne Jackson

Clark County Public Works Staff

Kelli Frost, Earl Rowell and Cindy Stienbarger

Clark County Public Information Office Staff

Don Strick

Call to Order

Introduction

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, and Clark County staff were introduced. The meeting was then called to order.

Agenda and material review

The material for the meeting includes:

1. 04/07/04 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting agenda
 2. 03/03/04 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting notes
 3. 02/04/04 Clark County Clean Water Commission revised meeting notes
 4. 03/03/04 Clean Water Commission re-appointment letter
 5. 03/08/04 Clean Water Commission re-appointment letter to Virginia vanBreeman
 6. 04/06/04 Board of County Commissioners Consent Agenda
 7. 04/05/04 Clark County News Release – Clean Water Commission Vacancy
 8. 03/03/04 Letter to Mr. Giese from Clean Water Commissioners
 9. 03/25/04 Clark County News Release – Regional Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams ad campaign
 10. April 2004 article, The Columbian, Regional Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams launches public awareness campaign to promote chemical-free lawns
 11. April 2004 advertisement, The Columbian, Is your lawn chemical-free
 12. Water Related Events – April/May 2004
 13. Clean Water Related Events Calendar – April/May 2004
 14. 03/16/04 article, The Columbian, Vancouver must address drainage to comply with law, council told
 15. Preliminary Draft, Clark County Clean Water Commission 2003 Annual Report
- Clark County Clean Water Program Communications Plan Summary
 - Currents Newsletter of the Clark County volunteer monitoring program – Spring 2004
 - 04/05/04 News Release, Area agencies to host, for the Lake's Sake: Lacamas Lake Watershed Festival and Kids' Fishing Derby

03/03/04 meeting notes

The 03/04/04 Clean Water Commission meeting notes were approved with the following changes; Mr. Owens requested that Bud Cave's title be added to the meeting notes.

Mr. Agard stated he was adamant about staying within budget with regards to capital improvement projects, and that he was under the impression there would be no "dipping into savings" in order to fund the projects.

Mrs. Schramm recalled that the subcommittee determined there were enough funds to begin implementing capital improvement projects.

Mr. Rowell explained in some instances it was determined that the overall cost of the project would exceed what was originally estimated. Money was taken from the fund balance to make up the difference in order to move the projects forward, but that we are still within budget.

Mr. Agard mentioned his other concern is not having an engineer on staff to track costs which forces us to depend on other departments for cost and budget information.

Mr. Rowell said, currently there is a vacant Engineer III position in Water Resources, however there are engineers in Public Works that manage capital projects on a routine basis, Water Resources have contracted with them to work on projects.

Communications with the public

Mrs. Rasmussen stated that she has received three phone calls regarding a letter sent to property owners by Linda Small, a project manager in Public Works who is working on a Wetland Inventory project. These property owners asked to (voluntarily) let staff on to their property. Property owners were contacting me to find out what the consequences were if they choose not to participate. I tried to contact Ms. Small however she was out of the office, so I spoke with Mr. Swanson. I feel that there should have been more notice and more information given to the property owners so they would be able to make a more informed decision.

Mr. Rowell said that he would speak to Ms. Small.

Mr. Steinke commended the billing insert that came with the clean water fee bill and said it was very nicely done and a useful tool for educating the public.

Mr. Stubbs asked the Clean Water Commissioners if they had any objections to distributing a list of phone numbers, among the Commission members, so they can be contacted in the event of an emergency.

There were no objections among the present Clean Water Commission members. Ms. Jackson will be asked at the next Clean Water Commission meeting if she has any objections.

Public Education

Mr. Strick introduced himself to the Clean Water Commissioners and stated that he will be working, part time, for Water Resources in the areas of Education and Outreach; he distributed a Communications plan which he reviewed with the Clean Water Commission.

Mr. Agard stated that he would like to see the Clean Water Commissioners develop their own awards program based on cleaning up the water rather than be tied in with the Sammy awards.

Mr. Owen requested clarification regarding why Mr. Strick is needed to help out Water Resources and how his position is funded.

Mr. Rowell explained that there is a need for assistance in the Outreach and Education area and utilizing Mr. Strick will help us fill that need. Fifty percent of Mr. Strick's time will be allocated and funded through the Clean Water Fee Program.

Mrs. Schramm expressed she was happy to see the additional assistance in Outreach and Education.

Mr. Agard asked Mrs. Stienbarger if the Clean Water Program funded the Small Acreage Outreach program.

Mrs. Stienbarger replied that the Clean Water Program funded approximately 75% of that program.

Mrs. Stienbarger announced that the Clean Water Program Billboard Art Contest award ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 14 from 4:00p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street. Board of County Commissioners Betty Sue Morris and Judy Stanton will present the awards to the students. Twelve Students will receive awards; four of which will have their posters turned into billboards that will be displayed around Clark County.

Draft 2003 Clean Water Commission Annual Report

Mr. Rowell reviewed the draft Clean Water Commission Annual Report with the Commissioners and asked them to look over the document and present any changes by the May 5, 2004 Clean Water Commission meeting.

Mr. Owen suggested the annual report should include accomplishments from the 2002 annual report. He also suggested adding more of a description at the beginning of the report which outlines the body of the report.

Other Items

Mr. Agard asked when the Commissioners would receive a quarterly report from the monitoring program.

Mr. Rowell added that the Stream Health Monitoring Report, which quantifies the health of the water in various streams in Clark County, is near completion and will be distributed soon.

Mr. Rowell informed the Clean Water Commissioners that a brochure that addresses the issue of oil leaking out of cars will be distributed at various Auto Licensing places in Clark County. Mr. Armstrong is working on finding other outlets for the brochure as well, such as Automobile Servicing Centers.

Mr. Owen inquired when the vacancy on the Clean Water Commission will be filled.

Mr. Rowell explained that the Board of County Commissioners is working on the matter.

Mr. Owen inquired about the Engineer III position (Sam Giese's position).

Mr. Rowell explained that they had previously narrowed their search to two candidates. The individual who was offered the position declined. We will be looking at posting the position again to a wider audience.

Next Meeting

The next Clean Water Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 at the Clark County Public Works Maintenance and Operations Center, 4700 NE 78th Street.

Adjourn

The Clean Water Commission meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Respectively Submitted,
Kelli Frost*

H:\Frost\CWC\meeting notes and agenda\Meeting Notes\2004 CWC meeting notes\040704 cwc meeting notes.doc